



**JIM GIBBONS**  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

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## **MINUTES**

Name of Organization: Subcommittee on Communication Services for  
Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing and  
Persons with Speech Disabilities of the Nevada  
Commission on Services for Person with Disabilities  
(Nevada Revised Statute [NRS] 427.750)

Date and Time of Meeting: September 12, 2011  
10:30 A.M.

Location: Desert Regional Center  
1391 South Jones Boulevard  
Las Vegas, NV 89146-1200  
(702) 486-6200

### **I. Welcome and Introductions** Jana Spoor, Subcommittee Chairperson

Having a quorum the meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

Members Present: Dennis Granata, Betty Hammond, Merideth Aurs, Karen Pearl, Jana Spoor

Absent: Linda Raymond, Catherine Pearce

Excused: Dennis Granata left 11:45 p.m., Denise Phipps, Myron Goldman

Guests: Edina Jambor, Executive Director for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center (DHHARC); David Strom, Sprint Representative; Gary Olsen, CSPD Commissioner; Jeff Beardsley; David Daviton

ADSD Staff Present: Todd Butterworth, Lisa Jones

Interpreters: Daniel and Alayne from ASL Communications, Karla Johnston, and Gerianne Hummel

II. Public Comment

(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes from the June 27, 2011, Meeting\*

Jana Spoor, Subcommittee Chairperson

Ms. Pearl made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Hammond seconded, and the minutes were accepted.

IV. Review and Approval of Public Utilities Commission Budget \*

Betty Hammond, Subcommittee Member

Ms. Hammond compared the 2012 and 2013 budgets, including the following:

- Contractual service increased \$354,701 mostly due to CapTel Minutes which are expected to increase as we will be distributing more CapTel phones per the request of the council. Mr. Butterworth stated there was a dramatic increase in CapTel minutes due to increased use by existing users, and almost doubling the number of phones. Ms. Hammond stated that it is not only new phones, but also an attempt to get rid of the 2012 waiting list. Ms. Pearl asked if the PUC would be bothered by a 50% increase. Ms. Hammond replied that this is what we are asking for, but we may not be able to justify them to the PUC. If so, then the numbers will be adjusted accordingly.
- There was a lengthy discussion regarding DHHARC salaries, which increased by \$34,956 based on a study of equivalent non-profit jobs. Mr. Olsen stated that he agrees with increases, but some of them seem out of proportion, such as the \$10,000 increase for the Executive Director. Ms. Hammond replied that it seems like a lot, but the Executive Director had been underpaid in proportion to her position and education. Mr. Olsen replied that it is not an issue of degree, but of skill and experience. And many are paid less. Ms. Hammond replied that they are based on their degrees and their skills. Ms. Spoor agreed. Mr. Butterworth stated that the second set of numbers for the executive director position represented a \$13,000 decrease in total. Ms. Spoor stated that she was an Executive Director and every year she brings a comparison study to her Board and she is the lowest paid, which is lower than the salary for DHHARC salary. Mr. Olsen stated that he is worried about the impression that it will make when people see the large increase for the Executive Director and the small increases for the lower level employees.

Mr. Olsen voiced concern regarding the level of input the committee has in the budget process. There doesn't seem to be anything constructive or a solid plan. Ms. Spoor stated that it does work. We are hearing their concerns and taking

them into consideration. Ms. Hammond said that per Todd the numbers would be less. And she had no problem in reducing the numbers, as that is why we brought it to the subcommittee.

Based on the discussion here today the ADSD will adjust the number in accordance with principles stated by the subcommittee before taking the budget to the PUC.

- DHHARC benefits decreased \$15,500 due to a different insurance package.
- DHHARC out of state travel costs increase by \$4,970 due to newly hired staff.
- An increase in operating costs of \$8,720 partly due to leasing another place in Sparks. This may not come about. In that case, the budget would be reduced, accordingly.
- Total operating and travel costs \$13,690.
- Total contracts with non-profits increases by \$41,915 (much has to do with salary increases as previously discussed). This will decline once the Council's requested changes are made.
- ADSD operating costs – has decreased.
- \$396,943 total increase in budget – less salary adjustments.

Mr. Olsen stated that they may want to try contracting services. This would reduce salaries and may increase productivity. People are not happy with DHHARC. They need a fresh eye. Ms. Hammond said that DHHARC is moving their focus from things that are no longer working to the needs of the community. You will see more of this as DHHARC works more closely with Vocational Rehabilitation and other agencies, and in contracting for the literacy program and job development. Their Board is aware of those needs and is working on them.

Ms. Hammond made the motion that the CAC has reviewed the budget and has some concerns about the salaries at DHHARC, and the staff of ADSD will make some changes and resend it to the group prior to sending it to the PUC. Ms. Spoor seconded the motion. Ms. Pearl stated that the Council should not be voting on the budget at this time because the PUC will have them make adjustments anyway. That if anyone disagrees with any part of it, then they can write to the PUC regarding it. Ms. Hammond rescinded her motion.

V. Discussion of Possible Changes to the Makeup of the Committee, in Preparation for the 2013 Legislative Session\*

- Inclusion of Parent Representation on the Committee
- Addition of Non-Voting Members to the Committee
  - Jana Spoor, Subcommittee Chairperson

Having no quorum it was decided to table this item until the next meeting.

VI. Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting\*

Discussion of possible changes to the makeup of the committee, in preparation for the 2013 legislative session (agenda item V).

VII. Schedule Next Meeting\*

VIII. Public Comment

(No action may be taken upon a matter raised under public comment period unless the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an action item.)

Discussion was held regarding Hayley Jeeter, a certified interpreter, filling the vacant position of community interpreter. It was decided to invite her to submit an application.

IX. Adjournment\*

Having no further business, the subcommittee adjourned at 12:08.

\* Denotes items on which action may be taken.

NOTE: Items may be considered out of order.